



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

m/49/009

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Executive Secretary

August 14, 2001

Mr. Paul Spor
Tintic Utah Metals LLC
P.O. Box 51
Eureka, UT 84628

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2001

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING**

Dear Mr. Spor:

Subject: Proposed Operational Information

We have reviewed your letter dated June 29, 2001, and supplemental report, in which you propose to add a cyanide leach circuit to your Tintic ore mill operation. In a letter on April 19, 2000, the Division of Water Quality concluded that dry-stack disposal of tailings from this operation did not pose a danger to ground water and would qualify for permit-by-rule status under UAC R317-6, when it was proposed last year without a cyanide leach circuit. This determination was based on (1) absence of leaching from the dry-stacked tailings as demonstrated by HELP modeling, and (2) favorable site conditions including deep, poor-quality, confined ground water and impermeable bedrock below the tailings disposal site.

According to your letter, about 10% of the ore processed in the milling operation will be treated in the cyanide circuit. After metals are extracted, the tailings will be treated with a cyanide destruction process which will result in a WAD cyanide concentration of around 2 ppm. This concentration will be further reduced as these tailings are mixed within your processing circuit with the remaining 90% ore.

Considering the favorable hydrogeologic conditions at your site, as described in our previous letter, we do not believe that dry-stack disposal of tailings treated in the process described in your recent letter will impair beneficial uses of ground water. Accordingly, the tailings disposal will still qualify for permit-by-rule status under UAC R317-6-6.2(A), provided the ore is processed as you describe.

The addition of potentially toxic compounds to the tailings may be a cause for greater regulatory oversight and more stringent requirements for containment of the waste. This determination of

Mr. Paul Spor
August 13, 2001
Page 2

permit-by-rule status is based upon the proposed milling process described in your original submittal dated March, 2000 and your recent report dated June, 2001. Permit-by-rule status may not apply if any changes are made to the milling process you have described. If you find it necessary to change the milling process in the future you must report those changes to this office. Although the operation as described qualifies for permit-by-rule status, Tintic Utah Metals would be held responsible if it caused any loss of beneficial uses of ground or surface water.

Please contact Mark Novak of this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:MN:bjr

cc: Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
Utah County Health Dept.

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FILE:TINTIC UTAH METALS